

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



Volume: 26-04  
Released: September 27, 2004  
Week Ending: September 26, 2004

Phone: 503 326-2131  
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157  
E-Mail: [nass-or@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-or@nass.usda.gov)

National website at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>  
Oregon website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>

**Weather:** Temperatures were warmer than normal across the State last week; however, Malheur County received some frost on Monday and Tuesday nights. High temperatures ranged from the lower seventies to the upper eighties, with overnight lows in the thirties and forties. Weekly precipitation was minimal in most areas, but some areas in the southeastern and northeastern parts of the State received scattered rainfall during the week.

**Field Crops:** Warmer and drier conditions allowed farmers and ranchers to make good progress with fall seeding, tillage, and fertilizer application. The mostly dry weather also allowed producers to put up the last of their alfalfa and grass hay. Herbicide and fertilizer applications were being made to grass seed fields in Marion County. In Malheur County, corn for silage harvest was in full swing. Winter wheat planting was well underway in Umatilla County. Ranchers were busy moving hay from the field in Wasco County.

**Fruit and Nuts:** Winter pear harvest was winding down in the lower Hood River Valley. Growers started applying post harvest sulfur sprays. Picking continued in the mid Hood River Valley, throughout the Willamette Valley, and in Wasco County. Picking began in the Parkdale area. Growers prepared their strawberry, caneberry, and blueberry fields for winter. Hazelnut harvest began in the Willamette Valley under improved field conditions. Some wine grapes were harvested while some areas were not quite ready.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nursery marketing activity was starting to pick up for the fall push. Greenhouses were working with holiday plants and moving fall plants to garden centers. On the southern Oregon coast Easter lily growers continued harvest, sorting, and planting activities of bulbs. Christmas tree growers are getting for November harvest.

**Vegetables:** Vegetable harvesting activity continued in western Oregon last week. Vegetable stands remained busy in Jackson and Josephine counties, mainly with sweet corn, melons, squash, and tomatoes. Sweet corn harvest is nearly complete in the Willamette Valley. Pumpkins were still coloring very well in Clackamas County. Washington County potatoes continued to be harvested. In Klamath County, potato harvest continued with good yields reported. Union County reported that the potato harvest is now underway. The main field activities in Malheur County concern potato and onion harvests.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Pasture and rangeland conditions were reported good in most areas across the State. A few areas continued to report the need for additional precipitation, but most areas reported favorable fall conditions. Some livestock continued to be moved from summer grazing areas into fresher fall pastures including some grain stubble fields. Fall pastures have continued to green up reducing the need for supplemental feeding. Cattle producers continued working herds as some calves were being weaned. Livestock were reported in good condition across the State.

**Crop Progress - Week Ending 9/26/04**

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley harvested (%)	98	96	100	96
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.9	5.7	—	—

**Soil Moisture - Week Ending 9/26/04**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	5	28	67	—
Subsoil (%)	12	30	58	—

**Crop Condition - Week Ending 9/26/04**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	4	19	35	37	5

**CLACKAMAS:** Fall field preparations moving along rapidly. Grain seeding is underway. Strawberry fields are being cultivated and hoed. Caneberries mostly pruned and trained. Hazelnuts ready for sweeping and harvest. Wide variety of vegetables available for local markets. Pumpkins are coloring with a good crop in prospect. Nursery marketing activity is starting to pick up for the fall push. Livestock in good shape. Spring calves are moving into the marketplace. Pastures have really greened up, lowering the need for supplemental feeding.

**COOS/CURRY:** Minimal scattered rainfall during the week, with overcast conditions prevailing throughout the early morning hours much of the period. Brookings (Curry): Low temp for the period was 49.59 degrees, 2.35 degrees above the five-year average. High temperature for the period was 68.54 degrees, 17.29 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.0 inches compared to a 5-year average of 0.18 inches. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): Low temperature for the period was 45.12 degrees, 1.96 degrees above the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 68.12 degrees, 0.97 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.03 inches compared to a five-year average of 0.06 inches (including 3 drought years, 2001 – 2003).

**JACKSON:** Seedbed preparation for fall grains in progress. Harvest of late pick pears continues. Wine grape harvest started about two weeks early. The week of cooler/damp weather two to three weeks ago did some damage to the early varieties of grapes. Sweet corn, melons, squash, pumpkins and tomatoes available in stands. Second cutting of grass hay and third or fourth cutting of alfalfa still being cut and baled. Grain crops are harvested and lots of fieldwork being done to mulch the stubble and get ready for the next plantings. Apple and pear harvests still being done. Greenhouses still getting out fall plants, mostly decorative and late flowering plants. Nurseries are busy with plant maintenance water, feeding, weeding and etc. Most livestock looking quite good considering how dry the summer has been. Some ranchers starting to move down cattle from higher summer pastures. It is still very dry in the area, too dry for good fall pasture to get started. Lots of irrigation.

**JOSEPHINE:** Most of the vineyards have not begun harvest yet. The grapes appear very plentiful on the vines. Perhaps lacking the cool nighttime temperatures it takes to develop the sugar. Harvest should be starting soon. Apples continue to ripen and the truck farms are starting to clean up fields for winter. Still harvesting and selling food stuffs, getting ready for pumpkin time. The crops seemed really good this year and the tomatoes were especially good. There were two days of good rain this past week.

**LANE/LINN/BENTON:** Harvesting some fall pears and some fall apples. Hazelnut and walnut harvest in full swing. Both look like very good yields. Some fall berries. Vegetables still being harvested as long as we don't get a hard frost. Sweet corn harvest nearly completed. Yields are average for 2004 corn crop.

**MARION:** Recent drier weather and sunshine is allowing the few delayed harvests to be completed. A few fields of peppermint, grain, red clover and grass seed got wet in the last rain showers but should be able to get harvested as they dry. May be some late fourth cutting alfalfa to harvest if weather cooperates. Herbicide and fertilizer applications are being made to grass seed fields. Ground preparation continues for fall seeding of perennial ryegrass and winter wheat. Grape harvest in progress. Fall tillage work continues. Fall chemical applications on grass fields continues.

**WASHINGTON:** Oats, wheat, barley and grass seed harvest completed. Red clover harvest continues, weather permitting. Field corn for silage being cut and ensiled. Winter wheat being planted and new grass for seed being sown. Hazelnuts harvest underway; field conditions improving with return of sunshine. Walnuts nearing maturity. Preparing strawberries, caneberries, and blueberries for winter. Sweet corn for processing continues. Spraying cole crops for insects; onions headed for sheds. Potatoes being harvested. Checking nurseries for Sudden Oak Virus. Preparing new beds for fall planting. Cattle looking good; rains improved pastures. Fall seeding started and fields being prepared. Liming and weed control.

**YAMHILL:** Hazelnut harvest started this week and is progressing well. The weather is ideal, the crop is large and the price is excellent.

**HARNEY:** Third cutting alfalfa still being harvested. Livestock being brought home. Calves being weaned. Rain showers and cold temperatures last week. This week warming up with hot daytimes and cool nights.

**HOOD RIVER:** Winter pear harvest was winding down in the lower Hood River Valley. Growers started applying post harvest sulfur sprays. Picking continued in the mid-valley and got underway in Parkdale.

**KLAMATH:** A few producers continue to harvest grain. Potato harvest continues with above normal yields. Warmer temperatures toward the end of the week are helping the final cutting of hay cure.

**LAKE:** Temperatures remained cool in the mornings, warming up in the afternoons. No precipitation this week, dry conditions throughout the county.

**MALHEUR:** Good weather all last week. Temperatures were a little cooler than normal but no reports of early frost in the farming regions. Corn silage harvest has begun in earnest. Onion harvest is in full swing. Alfalfa growers are having a little trouble getting the fourth cutting dry enough to bail because of heavy dew in the mornings. All crops either done harvesting or being harvested with the exception of sugarbeets, which haven't started yet. Most activity is concentrated on potatoes and onions. Cooler than normal weather the first of the week, with light frost on Monday and Tuesday nights. But the week ended with warmer than normal weather. All in all ideal weather for harvesting and fall fieldwork.

**SHERMAN:** Good weather for cultivating and seeding! That's what everyone is doing here!

**UMATILLA:** Recent rains gave pasture green up that is normally not here this time of year. Little weaning or movement. A little of the last cutting of hay was rained on. It was either the third or fourth cutting. Hay around the Hermiston area was mostly on the fourth cutting. Plenty of winter wheat planting with early seeded wheat up and looking good. Soil moisture is the best in years.

**UNION:** Indian Summer finally arrived in Union County this week. Fair skies, warm temperatures, and gentle breezes marked the days of this week. Some hay was still being put up this week, mostly last minute cuttings of grass. The last of the grain crops also appeared to be harvested this week. Potato harvest is underway. More and more cattle and calves are being returned to pastures closer to home as ranchers bring their herds out of the hill and mountain pasture areas. However, higher elevation grazing areas still have plenty of feed and are in excellent condition for this time of year.

**WALLOWA:** Finally, some drier warmer weather has allowed many farmers to complete their grain harvest, as well as second hay cuttings. Forecast is for more of the same next week. Range conditions are still good.

**WASCO:** Warm fall weather prevailed through the week. Winter wheat planting continued through the week mainly on the higher elevations. Alfalfa hay season has come to a close in the Dufur and Tygh valley areas. The only activity noted was retrieving the last hay bales out of fields. Fruit harvest continued on pears and apples. Livestock are starting to be moved to fresher pastures, including grain stubble fields.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON - Week Ending September 26, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK'S PRECIPITATION			SEASON CUMULATIVE PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	44	69	57	-1	48	-3	0.10	-0.70	4	4.29	1.82	174	19
Crescent City	45	65	55	-3	39	-17	0.03	-0.46	2	0.98	-0.49	67	9
Florence	42	72	58	-2	56	-6	0.05	-0.64	1	4.55	2.46	218	9
North Bend	45	70	58	-1	53	-3	0.02	-0.47	1	5.70	4.18	375	8
Tillamook	38	70	56	-2	42	-4	0.05	-0.97	2	7.48	4.28	234	14
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	37	81	61	2	80	13	0.00	-0.41	0	2.09	0.80	162	9
Eugene	38	76	59	-3	62	-13	0.03	-0.39	1	2.07	0.63	144	10
Hillsboro	39	77	59	0	62	2	0.02	-0.36	1	1.21	-0.08	94	10
McMinnville	40	75	59	-1	63	-4	0.01	-0.42	1	1.70	0.31	122	12
Portland AP	47	75	61	0	82	5	0.00	-0.42	0	1.01	-0.51	66	9
Salem	41	75	59	-1	63	-2	0.00	-0.42	0	2.08	0.75	156	10
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	38	87	61	-2	79	-9	0.14	-0.12	1	0.34	-0.42	45	3
Medford	39	90	64	2	101	11	0.02	-0.19	1	0.04	-0.71	5	2
Roseburg AP	41	82	61	-2	76	-5	0.23	-0.05	1	1.40	0.41	141	9
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	35	80	56	2	46	7	0.00	-0.14	0	0.59	-0.05	92	4
Heppner	42	82	60	3	71	13	0.00	-0.21	0	0.80	0.09	113	6
Hermiston AP	39	83	60	1	73	3	0.02	-0.05	1	0.18	-0.26	46	3
John Day	37	87	59	3	63	13	0.01	-0.17	1	0.48	-0.27	64	6
Moro	40	82	59	3	63	14	0.00	-0.11	0	0.50	0.01	102	9
Pendleton AP	43	85	62	3	87	16	0.00	-0.14	0	0.37	-0.15	71	5
The Dalles	45	85	66	9	112	59	0.00	-0.12	0	0.43	-0.07	86	5
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	29	84	54	2	45	12	0.02	-0.05	1	0.93	0.51	221	4
Burns	20	84	53	1	34	5	0.00	-0.11	0	0.27	-0.22	55	5
Klamath Falls	28	80	53	-4	33	-18	0.01	-0.13	1	0.02	-0.45	4	2
Lakeview	27	81	51	-5	20	-23	0.00	-0.14	0	0.06	-0.46	12	1
Redmond	27	86	56	2	46	7	0.01	-0.06	1	0.09	-0.27	25	6
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	26	81	53	-2	29	-9	0.00	-0.14	0	0.77	0.12	118	5
Joseph	34	74	51	2	21	-1	0.32	-0.03	2	1.87	0.70	160	8
La Grande AP	32	84	56	-2	43	-9	0.00	-0.21	0	0.68	-0.12	85	6
Union	33	85	55	0	38	-3	0.02	-0.19	1	0.86	-0.05	95	9
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	36	85	60	0	69	0	0.00	-0.10	0	0.31	-0.17	65	3
Rome	32	88	59	3	62	11	0.17	0.03	1	0.49	-0.03	94	4

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday, September 1, 2004.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2004: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Oregon Crop Weather 26-04

Janice A. Goodwin, Director

Laci Banks, Agricultural Statistician